

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9016

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CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: HAN SUNG-HON, PROMINENT OPPOSITION LAWYER, ARRESTED

REF: A SEOUL 1874

B SEOUL 1626

C SEOUL 8581 (1974)

D SEOUL 1605

E SEOUL 1635

1. ON MARCH 24, ROKG ANNOUNCED ARREST MARCH 22 OF HAN SUNG-HON, LAWYER FOR DISSENT POET KIM CHI-HA (REF A) AND FOR OPPOSITION LEADER KIM TAE-CHUNG, WHOSE NEW TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AGAIN ON MARCH 25 (REF B). PRESS CLAIMS ROKG ARRESTED HAN FOR VIOLATION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW, ARTICLE FOUR, PARA ONE. (PRAISING, ENCOURAGING OR SUPPORTING ANTI-STATE ORGANIZATION ETC., SUBJECTS VIOLATOR TO MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF SEVEN YEARS AT HARD LABOR.)

2. HAN IS ALSO ACTIVE IN NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY (NCRD) AND IS ADVISOR TO KOREAN JOURNALIST'S ASSOCIATION (KJA) WHICH RECENTLY SUPPORTED REPORTERS STRIKE AT TONGA

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ILBO AND WHOSE LICENSE TO PUBLISH WEEKLY JOURNAL

WAS JUST SUSPENDED BY ROKG. (REF D AND E).

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, ROKG IS CHARGING HAN WITH AIDING NORTH KOREA IN HIS COLLECTION OF ESSAYS ENTITLED "WITNESS TO A DISGRACED ERA", PUBLISHED ON DEC 25, 1974. ROKG ALLEGES HAN PRAISED NORTH KOREA IN ONE ESSAY CALLED "BEFORE DEATH OF A SENTENCED MAN" BY DESCRIBING EXECUTION OF KIM KYU-NAM, FORMER DRP ASSEMBLYMAN WHO WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH AS SPY. ERICSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PINT, KS, (HAN SUNG-HON)
To: STATE
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